

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that \$368,298 in FEMA funding from the economic recovery bill has been released to local counties to support programs aimed at assisting the unemployed and individuals in danger of losing their homes. New York counties will receive an estimated total of \$6 million in Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP) funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Hinchey helped pass the economic recovery bill in the House while advocating for programs to assist individuals who had lost their homes or jobs or who were at risk of losing their homes or jobs.

Nationwide, ARRA provides \$100 million in EFSP funds, which helps communities to address the needs of the unemployed and the poor. Locally, \$82,422 will be awarded to Dutchess County, \$106,095 to Orange County, \$25,559 to Sullivan County and \$53,965 to Ulster County. EFSP uses measures of unemployment and poverty to allocate funds to city and county jurisdictions.

EFSP funds can be used for a broad range of services, including mass shelter, mass feeding, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, one-month assistance with rent, mortgage and utility payments to prevent evictions and transition assistance from shelters to stable living conditions. EFSP's objectives are to allocate funds to the neediest areas; to ensure fast response; to foster public-private sector partnerships; to ensure local decision-making; and to maintain minimal standards for accountable reporting.

"This funding for New York's counties will provide critical assistance to New Yorkers who have been hardest hit by our nation's economic downturn," Hinchey said. "I was proud to support the economic recovery bill when it came before Congress not just because of the resources it provided to help to stimulate economic activity, but also because of the much-needed assistance it provided to displaced workers and individuals who were in danger of losing their homes. These funds will be put to good use to provide a safety net for many individuals in our communities who are struggling to get back on their feet again."